

REMARKS

Claims 17-25 are presented for further examination. Claims 17 and 19-25 have been amended.

In the final Office Action mailed July 15, 2003, the Examiner found the claims to be allowable over the art of record. However, claims 19-21 were objected to because of informalities regarding coupling to the source "contact," and antecedent basis for the "second conductivity type." Applicant has amended claims 19-21 to overcome the informalities.

Claims 22-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because of lack of support for allowing "no more than 3% to 4% of the source current to reach the substrate" in combination with a vertical DMOS device and a Schottky diode in a semiconductor structure. Applicant has amended claims 22-25 to delete the reference to allowing no more than "3% to 4% of the source current to reach the substrate."

Claims 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, because "a substrate of a second conductivity type" was unclear as to the location of the substrate and its relation to the buried region. Applicant has amended claim 17 to overcome this rejection with the recitation that the buried region is "formed in a substrate" of the second conductivity type.

In view of the foregoing amendments, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in this application are clearly in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application.

Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/659,800  
Reply to Office Action dated July 15, 2003

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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